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New Keep Children Safe Initiative Passes Unanimously

City Council Supports Council President Pro Tem Jim Madaffer's and Councilmember Tony Young's Proposal

After a two year delay the San Diego City Council voted unanimously to tighten regulations that would further protect children from sex offenders. The new ordinance restricts registered sex offenders from being within 300 feet of places where children gather including amusement centers, arcades, childcare facilities, libraries, playgrounds, parks, and schools. This new initiative narrows the limit from 2000 feet to 300 feet.

"This is a smart move to protect our children," said Council President Pro Tem Jim Madaffer, who, along with Councilmember Tony Young, led efforts to bring the issue to the City Council.

"As policy makers we need to make public places as safe as possible. This is especially true for children who are among the most vulnerable."

For years Councilmember Madaffer has championed keeping children safe from predators. As chair of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee he brought the issue to the November 16, 2005 meeting. At that meeting, committee members directed the City Attorney to draft this same ordinance. Now, more than two years later, the City Attorney provided the legal backup necessary for the issue to be voted on by the full Council.

"It would be unconscionable to delay this any longer and put children at risk. I'm proud that the City Council took a stand despite the uncertain legal status of other measures in California such as Jessica's Law," Councilmember Madaffer said.

Previously Councilmember Madaffer guided the City's efforts in creating the Neighborhood eWatch program (<http://ewatch.sandiego.gov>) that makes public localized crime statistics and also regional efforts to provide the public with updates about registered sex offenders in their community.

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